Integrated Development of Small and Medium towns, the Urban Basic Services for the Poor, the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme and the low cost sanitation;

(b) whether there is disparity in releasing funds to various States under the said schemes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government accords priority in releasing funds to those States having larger number of people living below the poverty line; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The criteria for allocation of funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes are as follows:-

(i) Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT):-The primary criterion for allocation of funds under this scheme is the small and medium towns population in each State as a proportion of the country's total urban population residing in such towns.

(ii) Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP):-The available funds are allocated to different States/Union Territories based on the incidence of urban poverty. However, in order to ensure that sub-critical amounts are not sanctioned to UTs, a minimum floor level has been fixed for smaller States and UTs.

(iii) Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP):-The allocation of funds under the PMIUPEP is on the basis of (i) incidence of urban poverty and (ii) number of towns in a particular State/UT.

(iv) Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for Liberation of Scavengers:-There is no State-wise allocation of funds under this scheme. Loan and subsidy is extended simultaneously by HUDCO for construction upto substructure, after sanction of schemes on whole town basis. Central subsidy is also routed through HUDCO. The loan and subsidy portion is based on the income of the beneficiaries with the objective to provide subsidies only to lower income groups.

(b) and (c) (i) IDSMT:-Actual releases from Central Government depend on: (i) project performance including utilisation of funds released earlier, (ii) availability of State share, (iii) conformity of the proposed projects with the Scheme guidelines. etc. Before the IDSMT scheme was revised in August, 1995, the entire money released as Central share was provided as a soft loan. Accordingly, there was not much demand from some States while certain other States took full advantage of the scheme. This led to certain disparities. However, under the revised IDSMT Scheme, Central Share is being released as a grant and the criteria mentioned in part (a) of the reply is followed.

As regards the LCS, UBSP & PMIUPEP, there is no disparity in release of funds to various States.

Release of funds is however, subject to overall performance of States/UTs.

(d) and (e) (1) IDSMT:-No priority is accorded to release of funds to States having larger number of people living below the poverty line as IDSMT is not a poverty alleviation scheme.

(2) UBSP:-The funds are distributed to the larger States as mentioned in part (a) of the reply.

(3) PMIUPEP:-Priority is given to the States having larger number of people living below the poverty line on the basis of incidence of poverty and the number of towns included.

(4) LCS:-Priority is given to such towns (i) as have pre-dominance of dry latrines (ii) where there is a large scavenger population or (iii) where widespread open defecation takes place.

[English]

Indo-US Relations

136. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI MADHAVRAO. SCINDIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State for External Affairs had been to USA for a two week visit;

(b) if so, the objectives of his visit; and

(c) the details of results achieved during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Saleem Iqbal Shervani paid an official visit to the United States from June 23-30, 1997.

(b) and (c) the visit constituted the first high level contact this year between the Government of India and the Government of the United States. The Minister had meetings with the Acting Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger. He also met Members of the Senate and House of Representatives including the Chairman of the Near East and South Asian Affairs Committee, Senator Sam brownback and Ranking Minority Leader, Senator Chales Robb. Congressman Benjamin Gilman, Chairman, House International Relations Committee hosted a reception while the Congressional Caucus on India and India-Americans hosted a lunch in the Minister's honour.

During these meetings, broad-based discussions were held on issues of mutual interest in the bilateral and international context. India and the United States also signed a new Extradition Treaty on June 25, 1997. On being ratified, the Treaty would replace the 1931 Extradition Treaty between the US and UK, acceded to by India and currently in force between India and the US. It constitutes an

important step forward in India-US law enforcement cooperation to counter, inter alia, international terrorism and narcotics trafficking.

[Translation]

Scriptures and Manuscripts of Siddha System

137. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scriptures and manuscripts of Siddha System written in Tamil had been taken away by Germans from Tamil Nadu and kept in Martin Luthar University in Germany;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring back the said scriptures and manuscripts for use in India; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be brought back and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by Ministry of External Affairs, the Martin Luther University located at Halle in Germany does not have manuscripts on the "Siddha" System written in Tamil.

[English]

Vacancies of Engineers in CPWD

138. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present actual strength of regular and adhoc Assistant Engineer, Executive Engineer, Superintending Engineer, Chief Engineer and A.D.G. both Civil and Electrical in CPWD;

(b) the number of vacancies lying vacant in each above said posts separately in Civil and Electrical;

(c) the time by which all the vacancies are likely to be filled up by the CPWD Authorities and regularise all the adhoc Executive Engineers; and

(d) the steps propose to be taken by the Government to stop adhoc promotion against long term vacancies in CPWD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) The information is given in the statement attached.

(c) The cases for regular promotion, including regularisation of adhoc promotions, are at different stages of processing. No time frame for completion of the process of regularisation can be indicated as it involves other organisations/agencies like UPSC and A.C.C. in case of posts falling within the purview of the ACC.

(d) At present, adhoc promotions are existing in the grade of Executive Engineer only. The revised Recruitment Rules for the Central Engineering Service and Central Electrical & Mechanical Engineering Service (Group A) which include the grade of Executive Engineer, were notified on 29.10.96. A proposal for regularisation of ad-hoc promotions made prior to 29.10.96 in accordance with the Rules as they stood prior to amendment, has already been forwarded to the UPSC. Filling up of vacancies arising from 29.10.96 onwards regularly in accordance with the revised Recruitment Rules will be possible only after the process of regularisation of pre-29.10.96 vacancies has been first completed. Once this process is completed, the need for making ad-hoc promotions may not arise in future.

Statement

Post	Present strength (Reg.)	(Adhoc)	No. of vacancies
ADG	0	0	7
CE (C)	43	0	1
CE (E)	7	0	1
SE (C)	157	0	0
SE (E)	48	0	0
EE (C)	97	339	132
EE (E)	47	96	38
AE (C)	1516	0	252
AE (E)	637	0	45

Quacks

139. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some medical practitioners have been found quacks in National Capital Territory of Delhi as per the survey conducted recently;

(b) if so, the number of such quacks in the country;

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to check the increasing danger of quacks in allopathy in the country;

(d) whether the Government propose to make any law to make any law to ban the practice of quacks and for punishing them;

(e) whether the certificates of Registared Medical Practitioners are being given by fake and unauthorised institutions; and